



Newsletter May 2025



Letter from the Editor

Hello, and welcome to our May newsletter.

This month has seen an unusually prolonged spell of dry weather, bringing with this a severe risk of wildfire. Our Ranger Service has been working tirelessly to advise, educate and extinguish campfires during this restricted period. We would urge everyone to act responsibly and follow the guidance from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

It has been great to have Crossmichael, Castle Douglas and Dalry Primary Schools take part in our education programme this month.

Read on to find out more about our activities this month.



Lindsay Stewart- Editor



WILDFIRE WARNING

Our Community Ranger Service have been working tirelessly carrying out extended patrols around Loch Ken during the extreme wildfire warnings and have had to extinguish multiple campfires. Our Rangers are working hard to advise and educate visitors and locals on the risks of fires during the warnings, liaising with landowners, Community Police and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

On some occasions, this advice has been met with hostility, with some members of the public not understanding the risks associated with lighting a fire during the extreme dry weather and not complying with the guidance. One camp fire on the shores of Loch Ken was so large and out of control, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had to be called in to extinguish.

As a Ranger Service we educate through our schools ranger-led programme and each year we hold an annual cookout event to educate on responsible access and how to protect the environment.

We would urge everyone to act responsibly and not light ANY fires during restricted periods.



SAVE THE DATE

We have set a date for our Family Water Safety Day- Tuesday 12th August 11am-3pm. For any further information please contact Lindsay@lochken.org.uk



LOCH KEN FAMILY FUN DAY



Tuesday 12th August 2025

11am-3pm

**Field next to Loch Ken Holiday Park,
Parton**



Free entry and open to all

Emergency Services

Rescue Demonstrations

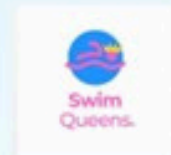
Kayaking Demonstrations First aid and safety advice

Wild Swimming Demonstrations

Facepainting

Kids Activities and crafts

Water Safety Obstacle Course



**All children must be accompanied by an adult. For
further information please contact
Lindsay@lochken.org.uk**

Climate Ready Glenkens

Thank you to everyone who attended our Glenkens Resilience Conference.

A huge thank you to our Guest Speakers, Kenny Bowie and Stuart Love from SP Energy Networks; Martin McGhie from Drax Group and Lauren Addis from Sepa for their interesting input.



It has been great to continue with our Resilience work, supporting communities in the Glenkens with resilience planning. Any resilience groups that would like support with their resilience planning, please get in touch
Lindsay@lochken.org.uk

Carlingwark Project

As part of our Restoring and Enhancing Carlingwark Loch project, it has been great to work with students from SRUC Barony Campus and Galloway Fisheries Trust. The Wildlife and Conservation Management students have carried out some surveys at Carlingwark Loch to try and establish a base line for the local community to decide on how they might want to manage the loch habitat moving forward.

Galloway Fisheries Trust have been collecting water samples at various times and locations and all the data will be collected and analysed.



This project is a great opportunity for Castle Douglas, and we would love the whole community to be involved with this. If you are interested in being kept updated on the project please email Lindsay@lochken.org.uk

Community Event

Carlingwark Loch

Wednesday 25th June 2025

10:30am-3pm

**The Crannog, Lochside Park, Castle Douglas
DG7 1EZ**

Find out more about water quality sampling
and Invasive Non-Native Species studies



Join us at Carlingwark Loch for a community workshop with Galloway Fisheries Trust. Free and all welcome Please book your free space on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1392743666799...>



**Neighbourhood
Ecosystem Fund**

THE CARMAN
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

NRF NATURE
RESTORATION
FUND

**Net Zero
Scotland**
Scottish
Government

**LET'S DO
NET ZERO**

INSPIRING SCOTLAND

Ranger Education Programme

2025

This month it has been great to welcome Crossmichael, Castle Douglas and Dalry Primary Schools who have taken part in our Ranger Education Programme. Our morning sessions have covered wildlife recording, followed by water safety activities in the afternoon.





IMPORTANT UPDATE

Boat Registration



Loch Ken Trust have ceased to run a boat registration scheme from the Loch Ken public slipway, Boat O Rhone, from April 1st 2025, due to increased multi usage and safety concerns.

Other launch points are available.

There will be a boat registration scheme on Loch Ken for the 2025 season- please contact any of the launchpoints; Loch Ken Marina, Crossmichael Marina or Galloway Activity Centre for further details.

Further information and map available on website

<https://lochken.org.uk/boat-registration/>

Dumfries and Galloway Youth Water Safety 2025

The Youth Water Safety Awareness Programme is now in full swing and it has been great to welcome groups from Dalbeattie High School and Kirkcudbright Academy this month and it has been great to see new skills learned on the water.





A huge thank you to all funders and the fantastic team at Galloway Activity Centre, without whom none of this would be possible.



water safety
Scotland

When angling, always let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to be back



#DrowningPrevention
Follow the Angling
activity-specific advice code



water safety
Scotland

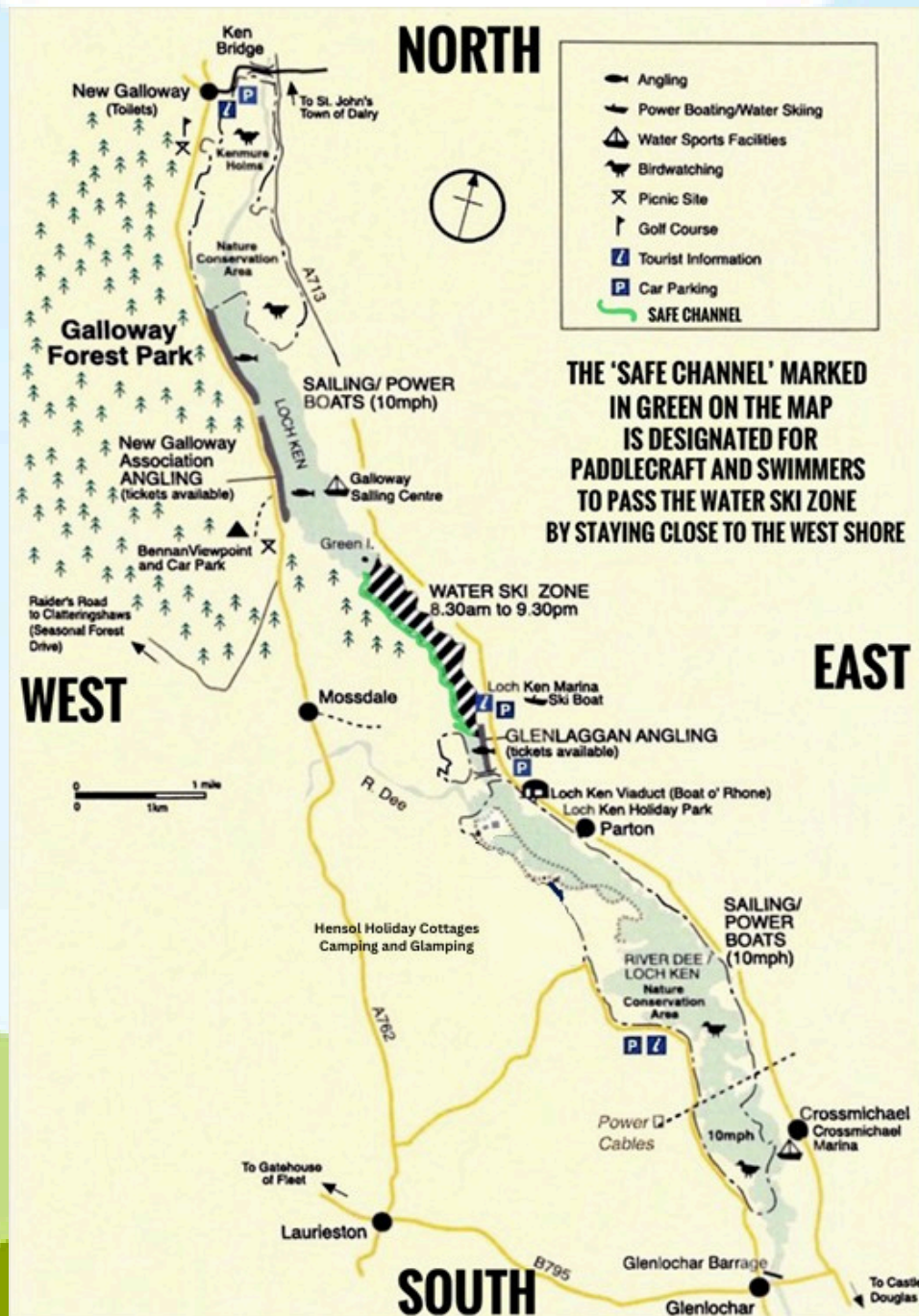
Spending time near
the water's edge?

**Learn the Water
Safety Code**

#DrowningPrevention

High Speed Zone

Please be aware that there is a High Speed Zone on Loch Ken. There is a designated channel where paddlecraft can pass, avoiding the High Speed Zone by staying close to the West Bank.



On Patrol with the Loch Ken Trust Ranger Service



CONTACT NUMBERS

07539029175 / 07918300889

Ranger@lochken.org.uk

Head Ranger Leanne and our Seasonal Ranger Toni continue to patrol the Loch both on the land and water.

This month the ranger service carried out some joint patrols with Police Scotland, educating and advising on responsible access. These joint patrols will continue throughout the season.



Ranger Group Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 30th June at The Crannog at 6:30pm.

All welcome to come along and find out about our community ranger service and how you can get involved.

Litter Bins

You may have noticed that the bins have been removed from all the laybys around Dumfries and Galloway and this is proving problematic around Loch Ken. We would urge our members to please fill in this survey from Dumfries and Galloway Council which will inform the litter strategy for the region Dumfries and Galloway Council's Litter Strategy.

Questionnaire

Survey closes at 5pm on 8th June

WeBs core counts

We continue to carry out the monthly Wetland Bird counts.

If you would like to get involved please get in touch
office@lochken.org.uk



drax

WATER SAFETY

Be safe around water

Don't swim in the water

**Don't enter the water if
someone is drowning**

**Use a rope if
someone is
drowning**

Help

**I'm
drowningggg**



Be water Smart

**Listen
for sirens
Look out for
strobe lights**

**Take care of
your dogs**

**Stay with an
adult**

**Watch out for
changes in
water levels
or flows**

**Obey all
warning signs
and keep out of
restricted areas**

**Stay clear of dams,
power lines and all
electrical equipment**

**If someone is in
the water call 999
or you can throw
a rope to them**



**Never swim in the
water**



drax

We would like to extend our thanks to all of the funders who support us. We are extremely grateful for your support.

